

— Capsule Summary
SM-563
Laurel Grove Slave Quarter
Laurel Grove
Private

c. 1830-1850

— The Buckler slave quarter, located just south of the intersection of Laurel Grove Road and Maryland Route 235, is a one story, one room, log dwelling with a large, stone, exterior end chimney. Since its initial construction c. 1830-1850, the building experienced a number of alterations and additions. Within the past ten years, however, these additions were removed exposing the original log section. Architectural evidence suggests that the building's fenestration originally featured two opposing doors and a single, small window located in the gable end. The interior was originally whitewashed with the interstices between the logs filled with stones, brick, split wood, and an oyster shell aggregate mortar. The interior also contained a winder stair to an attic space above. The gable roof of the structure has been removed exposing the building to the weather. While significantly altered and deteriorated, the Buckler slave quarter retains a significant amount of historic fabric and provides a rare glimpse into nineteenth century slave life.

— The slave quarter once existed on part of a large plantation called "Backland" and "Spalding's Adventure" that consisted of 350 acres and 207 acres respectively. In 1864, George W. and Eleanor Buckler sold this property to George W. L. Buckler for \$5000. This confirmatory deed notes that the actual transaction had occurred on January 20, 1849. It also notes that the property was located between the Three Notched Road and William Reeder's lands. Much of the property remained in the Buckler family until 1933. The quarter may have been related to the Parson House (SM-169) located to the northwest.

SM-563, Laurel Grove Slave Quarter
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Geographic Organization: | Western Shore |
| Chronological/Developmental Period: | Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870 |
| Historic Period Theme: | Architecture |

Resource Type

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Category: | Building |
| Historic Environment: | Rural |
| Historic Function and Use: | Residence |
| Known Design Source: | None |

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES
Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. SM-563

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Laurel Grove Slave Quarter

and/or common

2. Location

N side of Route 235, 0.1 mile SE of intersection of Rt. 235 and Mt. Zion Church Road.
street & number _____ not for publication

city, town Laurel Grove _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 6

state Maryland _____ county St. Mary's _____ TM 14, P. 164

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| ___ district | ___ public | ___ occupied | ___ agriculture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | ___ commercial |
| ___ structure | ___ both | ___ work in progress | ___ educational |
| ___ site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | ___ entertainment |
| ___ object | ___ in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | ___ government |
| | ___ being considered | ___ yes: unrestricted | ___ industrial |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | ___ no | ___ military |
| | | | ___ museum |
| | | | ___ park |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| | | | ___ religious |
| | | | ___ scientific |
| | | | ___ transportation |
| | | | ___ other: |

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Ford L. and Linda Dean

street & number 3965 Three Notch Road _____ telephone no.: (301) 884-3612

city, town Mechanicsville _____ state and zip code Md 20659

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse _____ liber 182

street & number _____ folio 378

city, town Leonardtown _____ state Md

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title _____

date _____ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-563

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☒ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Laurel Grove slave quarter is located on the northeast side of Three Notch Road (or Route 235) just south of the intersection of Three Notch and Laurel Grove Roads (Route 247) in Laurel Grove, Maryland. The quarter is situated on a small knoll overlooking the road and oriented on an east/west axis. The building is approached via a 0.05 mile dirt drive and located immediately behind a modern modular home on a grassy subdivided parcel. The building is currently open to the weather and deteriorating.

The Laurel Grove slave quarter is a one-and-a-half story, one room, log dwelling with a large, exterior end, stone chimney and gable roof. The hewn logs are joined at all four corners with full dovetail notches. Some of the logs exhibit evidence of whitewash. Chinking between the logs is composed of split wood, brick, and a light tan, oyster shell aggregate mortar. The original roof of the log house has been removed, but scars on the stone chimney suggest it was a gable roof. The log house was once incorporated into a larger dwelling. Within the past ten years, however, these later additions were removed revealing the present log building.

The west or primary elevation features a centrally located original doorway and a window added after the log house was first erected. The logs around the window opening were cleanly and evenly sawn and do not have any peg holes to indicate the presence of an original jamb. The logs that surround the doorway are not visible, but the door is located directly across from the other entry on the east elevation which suggests that it dates to the building's initial construction.

The north elevation features a later door that replaced an earlier window. Only a single jamb for the window survives. The jamb is pegged into the ends of the logs that were roughly cut for the window space. The other jamb was taken out when the doorway was installed.

Much like the west elevation, the east elevation consists of an original door and a later window. The logs for the window were cut cleanly and evenly and exhibit no mortises for pegs. While the jamb for the door is not original, an inspection of the log ends around the door revealed mortises for pegs.

The south elevation contains the most distinctive feature of the quarter--a large stone chimney. The stone chimney, constructed of irregularly laid local ironstone, is held together with a combination of portland cement and a light tan mortar. The base of the chimney measures approximately six-and-a-half feet by three feet. The chimney stack is set back approximately six inches from the log wall. Within this space, on either side of the stack, is a vertical plank fastened to the chimney with fully formed cut nails. The purpose of these planks are not known although they probably served to keep the log walls true against the chimney. The outline of clapboard can also be seen in the mortar along the edge of the chimney, suggesting that the building may originally been covered with clapboard. Evidence located near the top of the chimney suggests that a gable roof addition was once attached to the south of the present log building.

The interior reveals evidence that it was whitewashed with the ceiling joists left exposed. A large open hearth without a mantle occupied the south side of the interior, while remains of a winder stair survive in the northeast corner. While the tread and stringer appear to be later replacements, the stair header, mortised into two ceiling joists, appears to be original.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-563

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900– | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☒ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

^{Laurel Grove}
The ~~Buckler~~ slave quarter, located just south of the intersection of Laurel Grove Road and Maryland Route 235, is a one story, one room, log dwelling with large, stone, exterior end chimney. Since its initial construction c. 1820–1850, the building experienced a number of alterations and additions. Within the past ten years, however, these additions were removed exposing the original log section. Architectural evidence suggests that the building's fenestration originally featured two opposing doors and a single, small window located in the gable end. The interior was originally whitewashed with the interstices between the logs filled with stones, brick, split wood, and an oyster shell aggregate mortar. The interior also contained a winder stair to an attic space above. The gable roof of the structure has been removed exposing the building to deterioration. These, however, were removed when the northbound lanes for Route 235 were constructed. While significantly altered and deteriorated, the Buckler slave quarter retains a significant amount of historic fabric and provides a rare glimpse into nineteenth century slave life.

The slave quarter currently sits on part of a large plantation called "Backland" and "Spalding's Adventure" that consisted of 350 acres and 207 acres respectively. In 1864, George W. and Eleanor Buckler sold this property to George W. L. Buckler for \$5000. This confirmatory deed notes that the actual transaction had occurred on January 20, 1849. It also notes that the property was located between the Three Notched Road and William Reeder's lands. Much of the property remained in the Buckler family until 1933. According to Michael Humphries and David Roberts several other board-and-batten covered, log slave quarters were once located in the same vicinity near Three Notch Road.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-563

Ford L. Dean, interview, March, 1997.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 10.32 acres

Quadrangle name Mechanicsville

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Same as per deed description.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization St. Mary's Department of Planning and Zoning

date April 1997

street & number 22740 Washington Street

telephone (301) 475-4662

city or town Leonardtown

state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-0001

SM-563, Laurel Grove Slave Quarter
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain-of-Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Deed Reference: Liber 182, Folio 378

Grantee: Ford L. and Linda Dean

Grantor: Charlotte W. Dean

Date: October 10, 1972

Notes: Called "Chestnut Hill," the property contains 10.32 acres and was surveyed in plat book DBK 9, Folio 79.

Deed Reference: Liber JMM 8, Folio 188

Grantee: John D. and Charlotte W. Dean

Grantor: George L. and Mamie D. Buckler

Date: January 4, 1933

Notes: John D. Dean died on July 31, 1968 and was survived by his wife Charlotte. Here the property contains 26 1/2 acres.

Deed Reference: Liber JMM 4, Folio 415

Grantee: George L. and Mamie D. Buckler

Grantor: John M. Reeder

Date: October 14, 1920

Notes: This deed notes that the property contains 20 acres more or less.

Deed Reference: Liber EBA 8, Folio 469

Grantee: John M. Reeder

Grantor: E. St. Clair Buckler and Clara C. Buckler

Date: April 22, 1910

Notes: Here the property is listed as containing seventy five acres.

Deed Reference: Liber EBA 8, Folio 467 (Release)

Grantee: E. St. Clair and Clara C. Buckler

Grantor: Samuel K. George

Date: April 22, 1910

Deed Reference: Liber EBA 6, Folio 129 (Mortgage)

Grantee: Samuel K. George

Grantor: E. St. Clair Buckler

Date: October 22, 1906

Notes: Here the property is listed as containing 527 1/2 acres.

Deed Reference: Liber EBA 6, Folio 127

Grantee: E. St. Clair Buckler

Grantor: Phil H. Tuck, atty

Date: October 22, 1906

Notes: The property was sold at a public auction ofr \$4600. The circuit court case was initiated by a default on the mortgage between Hamilton E. Buckler and E. St. Clair Buckler to Samuel K. George (Liber EBA 2, Folio 349). This deed notes that the property consisted of two parcels here combined.

— SM-563, Laurel Grove Slave Quarter
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

Parcel #1

Deed Reference: Liber JTB 4, Folio 283

Grantee: George W. L. Buckler

Grantor: George W. and Eleanor Buckler

Date: February 15, 1864

Notes: This deed notes that the property consisted of "Backland" (350 acres) and "Spalding's Adventure" (207 acres). Both tracts were purchased for a total of \$5000. This appears to be the parcel that the quarter is located on.

Parcel #2

Deed Reference: Liber JAC 6, Folio 263

Grantee: G. W. L. Buckler

Grantor: Thomas and Ann Bond

Date: January 8, 1873

Notes: This deed notes that this tract is "part of the land devised to the heirs of Charles M. Bond by his mother Elizabeth Bond." The property is described as consisting of 12 acres and located on the "east side of the Three Notch Road beside the corner facing G. W. L. Buckler's store."

—

Feb. 27, 1997

site of addition?

- stone chimney
irregularly laid
ironstone held w/
large aggregate mortar

ghost of roof
13° from top to ground

var. n. then
and side
late
windy

late window

orig
door jambs
replaced later

orig door
res holes in
leg end

floor joists
bevel mortised

- orig location of winder stair.

3 1/2 window jamb

cut nails also seen

orig window jam
pegged into ends
of logs

↙ circle
for
exterior
whitewash

ironstone foundation.

peg holes seen in walls

10 1/2 - 6 1/2 Chestnut log faces

not beaded

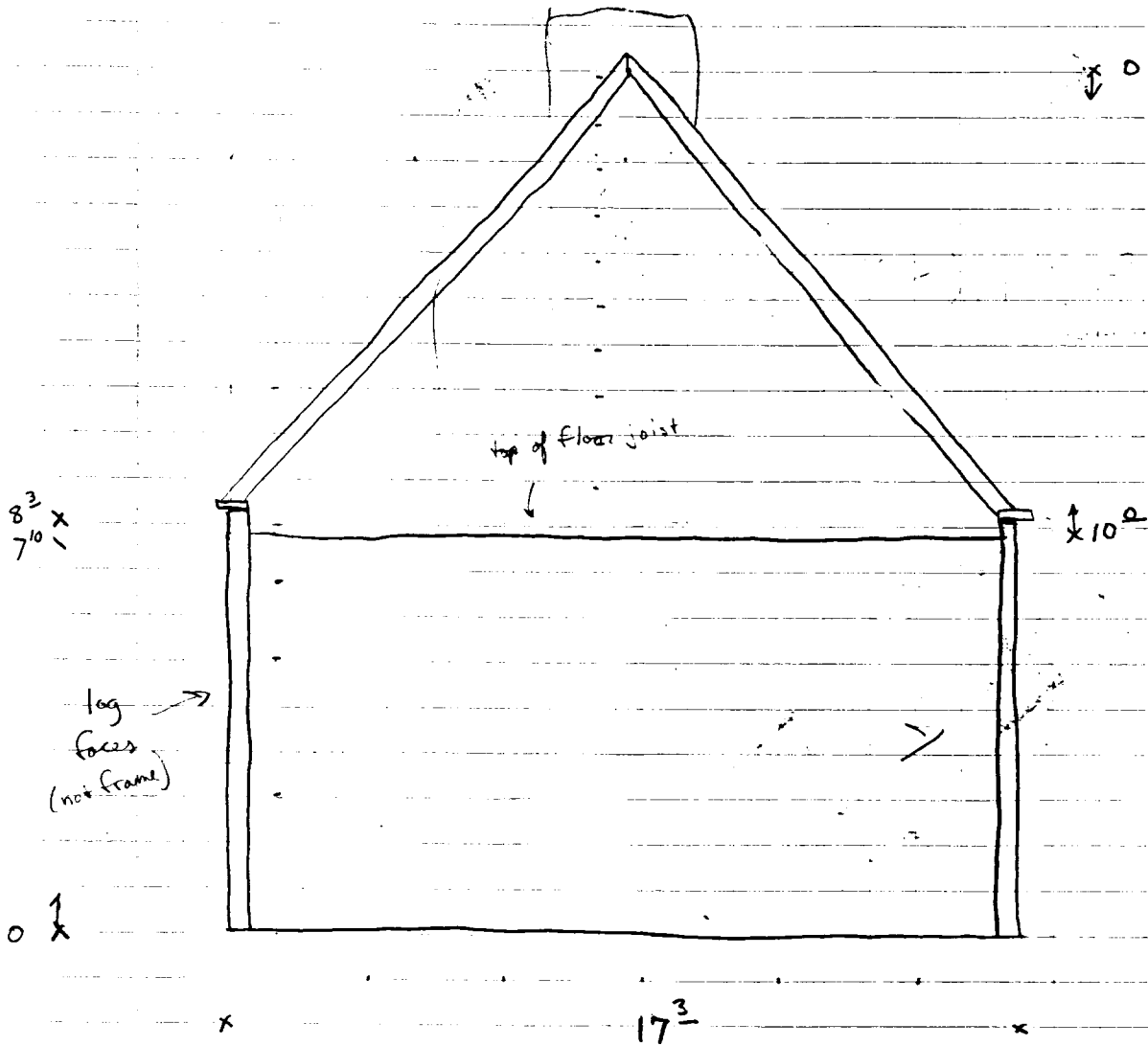
exposed joists \Rightarrow from chimney wall
 $(2^4, 2^8)(4^{10}, 5^{21/2})(7^5, 7^9)(9^{4\frac{1}{2}}, 10^2)$

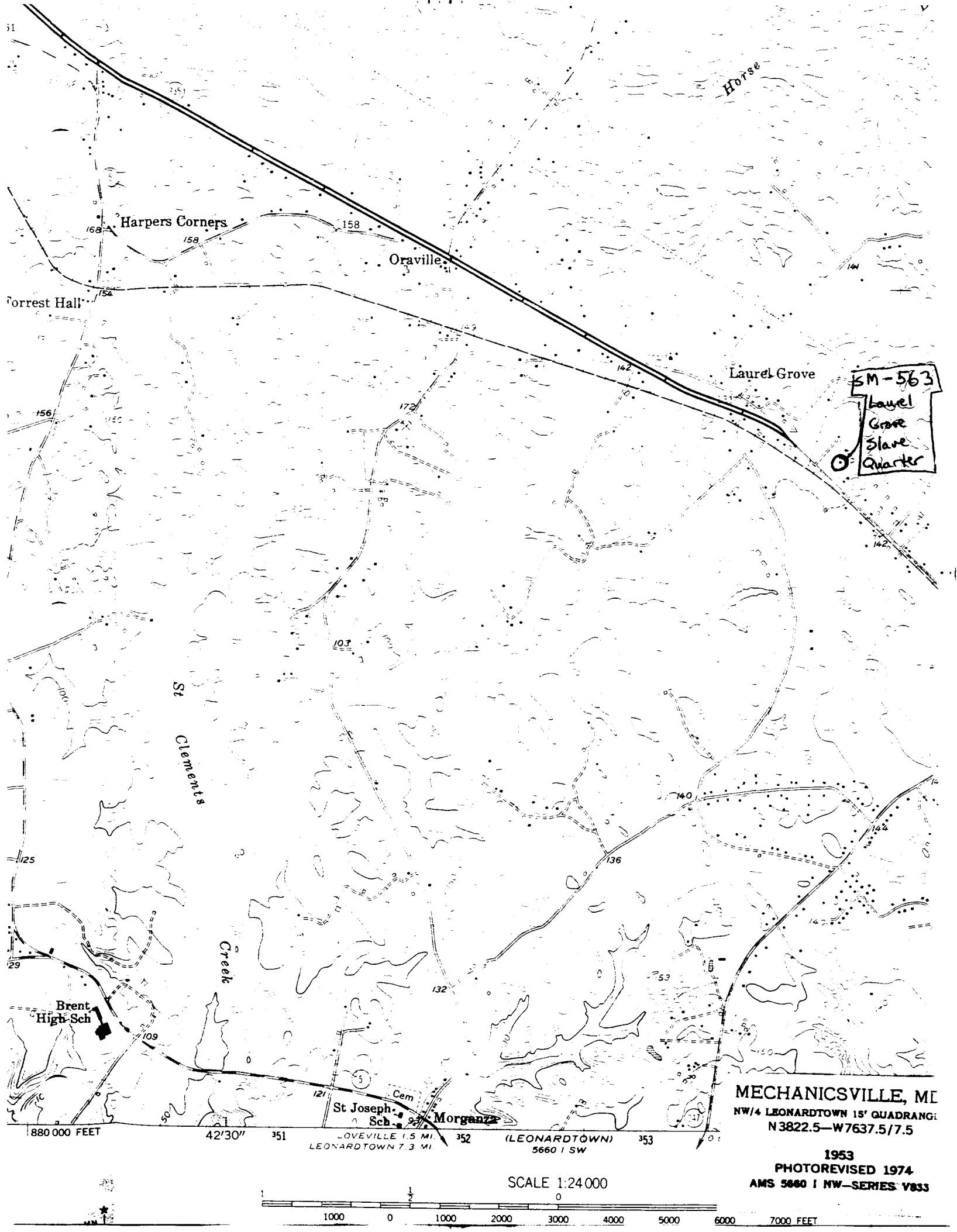
$$(12^4, 12^{7\frac{1}{2}})(14^7, 15^0)(18^{\frac{1}{2}})$$
 $q \log \text{height}$

white wash on it
wash on it

Chinking composed
of stone, large aggregate mortar
and split wood (wedge shaped)

SM-563



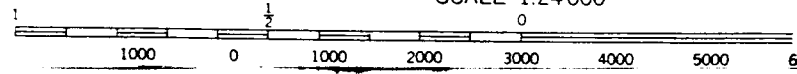


SM-563
Laurel
Grove
Slave
Quarter

MECHANICSVILLE, MD
NW/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE
N 3822.5-W 7637.5/7.5

1953
PHOTOREVISED 1974
AMS 5660 I NW-SERIES V833

SCALE 1:24000





M-563

Local Gray Slat Limestone

4. Mary's Quarry

Kirk Ranch

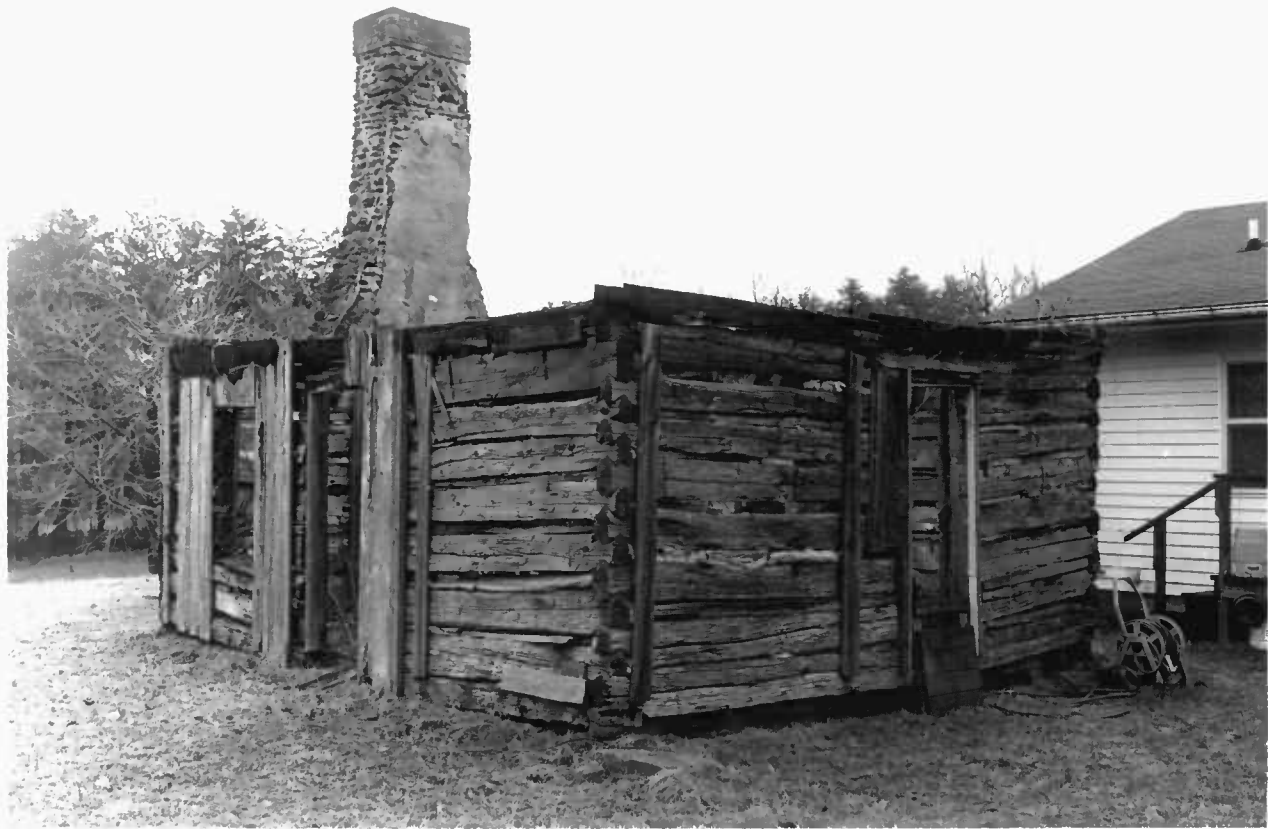
W. CHPO

1st - elevations

1/6

1/6







SM-563

Linnell Grove Slave Quarter

St. Mary's County

Kirk Range Rd

Sta. 2.510

Parent Notches - detail - f + N of station

11 of 6

Feb 1977

